Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) premium by 10%, enhancement of the rates of duty drawback, interest subvention of pre-shipment and post-shipment credit, refund of service tax, raising the revenue ceiling for Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana.

Revival package for tea plantation

2507. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government sanctioned a revival package for plantations;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of plantations considered for the package: State-wise;

(c) whether Government received separate proposal from the Government of Kerela for taking over closed/abandoned tea plantation in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the centre to consider the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A rehabilitation package was sanctioned by the Government on June 29, 2007 for 33 tea gardens, lying closed as on 1.4.2007 affecting more than 30,000 workers. 17 of these gardens are in West Bengal, 14 in Kerala and 2 in Assam. 11 of these gardens have now reopened. The package provides for restructuring of outstanding bank dues, provision of fresh working capital with interest subsidy from Government, waiver of outstanding loan due to Tea Board and settlement of provident fund dues in instalments. Once the accounts of these gardens are regularised, these will become eligible for loan for replanting under the Special Purpose Tea Fund and subsidy for machinery items under Quality Upgradation Scheme of Tea Board.

(c) and (d) The aforesaid rehabilitation package was announced after consideration of all the proposals received in this regard, including the proposal from the Government of Kerala.

SEZs approved by Government

2508. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been approved by Government till 31st December, 2007, State-wise;

(b) how many have started manufacturing activities as on 31st December, 2007;

(c) what is the amount invested by these SEZs in the form of capital; and

(d) what is the total number of employment provided by these SEZs State-wise as on 31st December, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) State-wise numbers of SEZs formally approved till 31st December, 2007 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of formal approval
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66
2.	Chhattisgarh	1
3.	Chandigarh	2
4.	Delhi	2
5.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	3
6.	Goa	7
7.	Gujarat	33
8.	Haryana	32
9.	Jharkhand	1
10.	Kerala	11
11.	Karnataka	39
12.	Maharashtra	84
13.	Madhya Pradesh	10
14.	Nagaland	2
15.	Orissa	9
16.	Punjab	6
17.	Pondicherry	1
18.	Rajasthan	5
19.	Tamil Nadu	55
20.	Uttaranchal	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	13
22.	West Bengal	16
	TOTAL:	401

(b) and (c) Over 30 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) set up under the SEZ Act, 2005 have commenced exports. An investment of Rs. 67347 crore have been made in the SEZs notified under the SEZ Act, 2005.

(d) State-wise employment provided by SEZs as on 31st December, 2007 is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of formal approval
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12236
2.	Chandigarh	113
3.	Goa	24
4.	Gujarat	4985
5.	Kerala	534
6.	Karnataka	19178

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of formal approval
7.	Maharashtra	3931
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4
9.	Punjab	3300
10.	Rajasthan	20
11.	Tamil Nadu	14594
12.	Uttar Pradesh	946
13.	West Bengal	150
	TOTAL:	61015

Import of palm oil

2509. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given approval for the import of palm oil in large quantities in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantum of import in each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Under the present import policy, import of palm oil is free. Government does not give any specific approval for import of palm oil. The details regarding quantum of import of palm oil in last three years is as follows:

(Lakh MT)

Year	Palm Oil
2005-2006	24.49
2006-2007	27.66
2007-2008 (April-August, 2007)	14.46

SOURCE : DGCI&S

The domestic production of edible oils is in-sufficient to meet the domestic demand. Imports are permitted to maintain uninterrupted supply of edible oils at affordable prices to the consumers.

Places selected for increasing rubber production

2510. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved recently some projects to increase rubber production in the country; and